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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,824	12/08/2003	Masayasu Fujii	FP03-175US	7576
1218	7590	06/17/2004	EXAMINER	
CASELLA & HESPOS 274 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016			DINH, PHUONG K	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2839

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)	
	10/730,824	FUJII ET AL.	
	Examiner Phuong KT Dinh	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears in the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 8,9,14 and 15 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0604</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are objected to because of the following informalities:
2. Claim 1, line 3, "projects outside" should be changed to - - projects outside the housing - -.
3. Claim 4, line 3, and claim 11, line 3, "undetachably" are unclear.
4. Claim 5, line 2, and claim 12, line 3 "tightly" is unclear should it be - - closely - -.
5. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane et al. (U. S. Patent 5,102,354) in view of Hirooka (U. S. Patent 4,579,405).

Regarding claim 1, Crane discloses housing 14 connector with a positioning portion 24 and in which a ground terminal 26a to be connected with a mating terminal is mounted in a housing 14 so that a grounding portion projects 34 outside, the grounding portion 36 be fixable to a grounding member. Crane discloses the claimed invention except that they do not show the grounding member (panel) and fixing screw. It appears clear that the part at 36 would be for grounding to a panel. Hirooka discloses grounding

to the panel at 7 and depicts a fixing screw 20. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Crane to provide the ground plane of a panel and fixing screw as taught by Hirooka so as to provide grounding to prevent cross talk.

8. Claims 5-7, 10-13 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane et al. (U. S. Patent 5,102,354) in view of Hirroka and further in view of Tanner (U. S. Patent 4,006,872).

Regarding claim 5, 10-13 and 16-17 Crane and Hirroka disclose the claimed invention except for the clip comprises a base plate having a width for tightly fitting between sides of the engaging portion and a head on a projecting end of the base plate for guiding during insertion. Tanner discloses the clip 17 comprises a base plate having a width for tightly fitting between sides of the engaging portion see figure 4. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Crane and Hirooka to provide the clip comprises a base plate having a width for tightly fitting between sides of the engaging portion as taught by Tanner so as to provide secure engagement.

Regarding claims 6-7, Crane and Hirooka disclose the claimed invention except for the clip comprises resilient locking pieces formed behind the head as seen in a mating direction of the clip into the engaging portion, wherein the resilient locking pieces are formed to diverge toward the housing. Tanner discloses the clip comprises resilient locking pieces 26 formed behind the head. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Crane and

Hirooka to provide the clip comprises resilient locking pieces formed behind the head as taught by Tanner so as to provide secure engagement.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 8-9 and 14-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

None of the references discloses the pressing pieces are formed at a base side of the base plate and extend more outward than the resilient locking pieces.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong KT Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 -5, 5 days a week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Field can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Phuong Dinh
June 03, 2004.